



BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 67 (OKANAGAN SKAHA)



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2006, AT 7:30 P.M.
AT THE SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE

C. Denesiuk, Chair
L. Little, Vice Chair
K. Andrews, Trustee
W. Huebert, Trustee
D. E. Jamieson, Trustee
G. Manning, Trustee
L. Van Alphen, Trustee

G. Doi, Superintendent of Schools
F. Regehr, Secretary-Treasurer
B. Celli, Assistant Superintendent
R. Shongrunden, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
J. Hickling, Director of Maintenance
G. Schafer, Director of Instruction
L. Hauptman, Director of Instruction
D. Adey, Executive Secretary

C. Philpotts, Principal, West Bench Elementary
J. Ramsay, Principal, Home Learners Program

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Denesiuk welcomed district staff and representatives of the media.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Little/Andrews that the agenda and addendum be approved.

CARRIED

3.0 PRESENTATIONS BY SCHOOLS AND/OR STUDENTS

3.1 School District Website

District Technology Helping Teacher Dean Bates demonstrated the features of the new and improved website for School District 67. Mr. Bates added the website, designed by Shadowfax Communications, has become a major way to communicate, has a more corporate look, will remain current, and allows multiple authors to contribute to the website.

Appreciation was extended to Mr. Bates and others who assisted with the development of the new website.

3.2 Black Box 4

Penticton Secondary Media Teacher Russ Stasiuk presented the latest Black Box video produced by his media students. The 7-minute video showcased efforts within the district to improve achievement for all students and emphasized that learning is critical. “Black Box 4” will be available on the district website and can be shown at parent advisory council meetings or other functions.

4.0 RECEIVING OF DELEGATIONS AND GUESTS**5.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

MOTION: Andrews/Van Alphen that the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 11, 2006 be approved.

CARRIED

6.0 REPORT FROM CLOSED MEETING

The secretary-treasurer reported on the closed meeting held on September 11, 2006:

1. Received reports from the finance and management committee; buildings, grounds, safety and transportation committee; and the discipline committee;
2. Confirmed teaching, excluded, and CUPE staff changes;
3. Approved personnel matters;
4. Received information related to personnel;
5. Approved requests for teacher leaves of absence;
6. Received information on student suspensions;
7. Received information regarding a meeting of BCPSEA.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE**7.1 Letter from Ministry of Education**

A letter from the Deputy Minister of Education clarifying the Ministry's Alternative Delivery Policy.

7.2 Letter from British Columbia School Trustees Association

A letter from the President of the British Columbia School Trustees Association regarding the key work of the BCSTA.

7.3 Summary of Copies of Letters to the Board

Copies of the letters to the Board listed below are available in the trustee reading file:

- Two letters from School District No. 38 (Richmond) to the Minister of Education regarding the alternative delivery policy
- School District No. 41 (Burnaby) to MLA's and school districts enclosing a letter received from the City of Burnaby regarding the repurposing of school boards

7.4 Letter from Catholic Civil Rights League

A letter from the Catholic Civil Rights League expressing opposition to the agreement signed between the provincial government and homosexual activists Murray and Peter Corren and requesting the school district's stated intention, policy, or guidelines on these issues.

MOTION: Huebert/Manning that the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

8.0 REPORT OF COMMITTEES

8.1 Education Committee

Trustee Manning reported on the education committee meeting held on September 26, 2006:

a. Update of Grad Portfolio

Teacher Dave Kalaski provided an update on the status of the Grad Portfolio in School District No. 67. This included an overview of school-based efforts to encourage grade 12 students to complete the portfolio process and of supports that have been put in place to assist those students who have decided to continue. He also emphasized that the Planning 10A and 10B components are continuing to be delivered as in the past.

b. Planning 10 (Distributed Learning Option)

Home Learners Program Principal Jan Ramsay provided an update on the Planning 10 Distributed Learning Option. The program was initiated this year to allow students the option of taking a full academic course load while staying in fine arts programs. The program brings together approximately 25 students from across the district to complete work on the Planning 10A/B course outside the regular timetable.

c. Wireless Laptop Project

Superintendent Gary Doi provided Trustees with an overview of the consultants' interim report of Year One of the wireless laptop project. This project will also be featured at BCSTA's upcoming Learning in Action Showcase. Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Ron Shongrunden reviewed the challenges inherent in developing a wireless environment in the schools along with the measures being taken by the Technology Department to address them. Director of Instruction Garth Schafer outlined the Special Education Laptop Initiative which was launched last week. This technology is intended to assist the Special Education teachers and the district itinerant staff in their work as well as being helpful for assisting some of their students. Superintendent Gary Doi also outlined another potential project which would involve the use of responders in some secondary school classrooms.

d. Behaviour Intervention Support (BIS) Update

Director of Instruction Garth Schafer provided an update on the Behaviour Intervention Support program. The Superintendent acknowledged the additional effort and leadership being put forth in this regard by Garth Schafer and Dave Kroschinsky.

e. SPC Training

The Superintendent reviewed the changes in format for this year's school planning council meetings to be held on October 24, 25, and 26 and the work being done on the planning for these meetings.

f. Summer Leadership Conference

The Superintendent reported that planning is well underway for next summer's conference. The proposal that the BCSTA jointly sponsor a Sunday evening Issues Forum has been positively received and will be part of the program. Discussions are progressing with respect to a Monday evening community presentation by Barbara Coloroso. This would be jointly sponsored by the School District No. 67 DPAC. A number of other organizations have also expressed interest in coming onboard in some manner.

MOTION: Manning/Huebert that the report of the education committee be received.

CARRIED

8.2 Finance and Management Committee

Trustee Little reported on the finance and management committee meeting held on September 27, 2006:

a. Report to the Board on Organization of Classes

Superintendent Doi and Directors Burgoyne, Hauptman, and Schafer reviewed student class sizes and composition for September. The review included information on the data gathered to prepare for consultation and the consultation process. Further information will be brought to the October 2, 2006 board meeting.

b. Rental Rates for Community Use

The secretary-treasurer distributed a rental review report provided to trustees in August 2004. The report summarized district practices and rates for rentals as well as reviewing many of the rental users. Rental comparisons with other districts and communities indicated SD67 rates were below average. The committee supported that the report be updated and that a recommendation be prepared for a revision of rental rates.

c. Electronic Disposal Issues

The school district is fortunate to receive many donations of surplus electronic equipment. On occasions, some equipment is of no use and starting next year landfill disposal charges will be significant. A current study of disposal practices may require school districts to ship materials to the lower mainland. In reviewing the issue, Mr. Shongrunden recommended and the committee supported that a letter be sent to Encorp Pacific (Canada) recommending a solution that would not be detrimental to interior school districts.

d. Pine Beetle Damage

A report from BCSTA summarized expenses incurred by school districts for removal of trees killed by the pine beetle. It was noted a limited amount of funding may be available in the future for additional tree removal.

MOTION: Little/Andrews that the report of the finance and management committee be received.

CARRIED

8.3 Buildings, Grounds, Safety and Transportation Committee

Trustee Jamieson reported on the buildings, grounds, safety and transportation committee meeting held on September 27, 2006:

a. 2007-08 Capital Building Program

The secretary-treasurer distributed and reviewed the development of the 2007-08 capital building program. The annual program is intended to identify major capital building projects for the years 2007-08 to 2012-13 that will be required in SD67. Ministry enrolment forecasts provided for the capital program project kindergarten enrolment will increase starting in 2010, an elementary enrolment increase will start in 2011, but that secondary enrolments will decline past 2015. Mr. Regehr recommended that our capital plan propose an increase in some of the enrolment projections but also recommended that the 2007-08 plan be submitted without recommending a major capital building project. The committee was provided with a further capital plan recommendation to replace one 1993 72-passenger bus in Summerland. Following discussion, the committee agreed to recommend that the 2007-08 capital plan be approved to include a request for a replacement bus.

MOTION: Jamieson/Van Alphen that the Board of School Trustees approves the 2007-08 Five-Year Capital Plan as outlined on the attached summary.

CARRIED

b. Crosswalk Safety Patrol

Mr. Shongrunden distributed information regarding the crosswalk safety patrols used at schools in our district. It was noted that SD67 follows the BCAA guidelines and practices and these guidelines will be changing. We will review these guidelines with BCAA. It was further noted that other school districts are trying to reduce their liability by eliminating student supervised crosswalk safety patrols.

c. Safe Loading and Unloading from Buses

The assistant secretary-treasurer reviewed a pilot program to improve safety for students unloading from buses. Buses following the pilot program are equipped with an extension arm that requires students to exit at a distance from the bus that allows improved visibility.

d. Booster Seat Awareness Campaign

Mr. Shongrunden reviewed a program that will be promoted by BCAA to encourage all children under 36 kg (80 lbs) to use a booster seat when transported in a car or van. Every elementary school principal was provided with this information during the past two weeks. Committee members agreed that this topic be referred to the policy committee for review.

e. PSS Auditorium Rental for 2007-08

Mr. Regehr reviewed the limitations for community use of the PSS auditorium now that the instruction is starting. The auditorium is now used as a full time classroom and the portable stage extension is in place on a regular basis. Mr. Hickling also noted our ability to provide an appropriate sound system and lighting support is more difficult when the space is regularly used by students. We expect rentals will be substantially limited during construction and that rentals that do occur will be expected to pay the cost of moving student/classroom material to clear the stage.

f. RDOS Draft Official Community Plan

A draft plan has been received for comment by October 7. Mr. Regehr noted the plan does not appear to support much space for housing and that the enrolment at Naramata school is in decline. Mr. Regehr also noted the zoning of school district property adjoining the school appears to have been changed since purchased in 1992.

MOTION: Jamieson/Andrews that the report of buildings, grounds, safety and transportation committee be received.

CARRIED

9.0 REPORT OF SECRETARY-TREASURER**9.1 Penticton Secondary School Reconstruction**

Director of Maintenance John Hickling reported that the official ground breaking ceremony for the Penticton Secondary School reconstruction, held last Tuesday, was well attended. The contractor has set up a field office at the site, the building permit has been received from the City of Penticton, and the south wall of the existing facility will be torn down beginning next week. The grounds are being prepared for the geo-thermal drilling of three hundred holes, each 300 feet deep, which will be used to heat and cool the new facility.

9.2 Financial Report

The secretary-treasurer reviewed the financial report to September 30, 2006 noting that one payroll to teachers and three months of payroll for 12-month employees have been reflected in this report, changes in funding resulting from the collective agreement settlements to the end of June have not yet been included in this report, and we will likely have a decline in funding due to a student decline in enrolment. It was noted that incentive payments were included in the financial statements.

MOTION: Van Alphen/Little that the financial report be received.

CARRIED

9.3 School Fees Court Decision

Mr. Regehr reported that as a result of a Supreme Court of BC decision earlier today, some changes have been made to the *School Board Fees Order*. Some additional restrictions have been placed on the ability of districts to collect fees around non discretionary classes. Mr. Regehr added the district was in compliance with the interpretation of the *School Act* prior to this court decision and once we receive additional information, we will determine the impact it may have on our district.

10.0 REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

10.1 Student Achievement

a. District Goals

Director of Instruction Hauptman provided an update on literacy activities within the district including continuation of early intervention, SmartReading, and literacy strategies for struggling readers. Also noted were workshops, book clubs, strategy lessons on teaching literacy, and a two-day conference in November for special education and reading specialist teachers.

Director of Instruction Schafer reviewed items related to the numeracy goal which included a three-day intensive workshop, numeracy in-services, identifying teachers who could become facilitators, and middle school teachers working together to prepare a reference manual for each grade level.

Assistant Superintendent Celli advised social responsibility initiatives such as the expansion of TRIBES training, Roots of Empathy, and healthy schools are underway in the district. Mr. Celli added the workgroup is trying to develop something to bring all the elements together that make up social responsibility and will then gather reliable data to evaluate the impact of these initiatives.

b. Report on Organization of Classes (*Bill 33*)

The superintendent presented a report on the organization of classes profiling the processes, class sizes and class composition for School District 67 as required by Section 76.1, 76.2, 76.3, and 76.4 of the *School Act* and the recently amended Class Size Regulation.

The superintendent added he has received and reviewed the principals' reports for all schools and classes for the 2006-07 school year and confirms that as of September 25, 2006, the organization of classes is in compliance with the provisions of the *School Act* and the classes are appropriate for student learning. Mr. Doi commented on the favourable feedback he received on the process and productive meetings held with OSTU President Terry Green and some of the executive.

Mr. Green commented the union was pleased with the efforts the board had gone through, there were not many class size violations, but feedback from teachers indicated that despite the process there was not much significant change in class composition.

Trustee comments included the recognition of \$5.5 million of special education funding provides significant support for special needs students in classrooms, additional funding in this year's budget for composition, and the consultation process. Following discussion,

MOTION: Little/Andrews that the report on class size and composition report resulting from *Bill 33* be received and accepted.

CARRIED

10.2 Communication and Access

a. Field Trips

The superintendent of schools reviewed a listing of field trip requests pursuant to board policy.

10.3 Other Items

a. Enrolment

The superintendent of schools reviewed enrolment as of September 30, 2006, which shows enrolment at 7,137 students or 6,863.318 FTE. The secretary-treasurer added the enrolment is down 213 FTE compared to September 30, 2005 and the budget was designed based on a decline of 96 students. The recalculation of funding received from the Ministry may be higher once the adult education numbers are included.

MOTION: Andrews/Van Alphen that the enrolment report be received.

CARRIED

11.0 REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

12.0 NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

13.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

13.1 BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting

The BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting will be held on October 20 and 21, 2006. Trustee Little will represent the board at this meeting.

13.2 BCSTA Okanagan Branch Meeting

The BCSTA Okanagan Branch Meeting will be held on October 13 and 14, 2006 in Kelowna.

13.3 Date of Next Meeting

- November 6, 2006, 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, School Board Office

14.0 TRUSTEE COMMENTS

14.1 Recognition of Student Success

School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha) extended congratulations to the students and groups for outstanding examples of success as shown on the recognition sheet included with the agenda package.

14.2 Recognition of Student Artwork

Congratulations were extended to students from McNicoll Park Middle School for their artwork currently on display at the school board office.

14.3 Trustee Comments

15.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Manning/Jamieson that the meeting be adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

CARRIED

16.0 QUESTION PERIOD

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer